

PIPELINE TECHNOLOGY JOURNAL · NIGERIA · DRILLING

Nigeria Needs \$22 Billion Pipeline Investment to Hit 12 Bcf/d Gas Target

Saga deep read · 29 September 2026 · Score 87

Nigeria must invest approximately \$22 billion in pipeline infrastructure to unlock its estimated 215.19 trillion cubic feet of proven natural gas reserves, energy experts warned at the 2026 International Pipeline Conference and Expo. Without a fundamental overhaul of the country's aging and defect-ridden network, ambitions to scale gas production will remain constrained by severe logistical bottlenecks.

Eloho Amagada, chief executive officer of Amelin Projects Ltd., laid out the scale of the challenge. Nigeria currently operates a pipeline network spanning over 2,500 kilometres and in 2025 commercialised approximately 4.7 billion cubic feet of gas per day, with domestic consumption accounting for 2.1 billion cubic feet. Federal development targets are significantly more ambitious: 10 billion cubic feet per day by 2027 and 12 billion cubic feet per day by 2030. Bridging that gap requires not only new transmission lines but a wholesale modernisation of existing assets. Amagada's summary was unambiguous: 'No decade of gas without a decade of pipeline infrastructure.'

The infrastructure decay problem is immediate and measurable. A recent inspection of a single 55-kilometre pipeline segment uncovered more than 3,000 defects, including severe wall loss. Amagada urged operators to abandon reactive maintenance models in favour of risk-based systems, artificial intelligence surveillance, and digital leak detection technologies. He pointed to the 130-kilometre Obiafu-Obrikom-Oben (OB3) pipeline — which used horizontal directional drilling to cross beneath the River Niger — as a benchmark for deploying advanced construction techniques in complex terrain.

Reuben Temerigha, managing director of Westend Diamond Energy Ltd., reinforced the call for risk-based asset management, arguing that maintenance prioritisation should be driven by failure probability rather than pipeline age alone. He warned that unresolved anomalies carry the potential to escalate rapidly into environmental disasters, adding reputational and regulatory risk to what is already a commercially critical challenge. Both speakers framed the investment case in terms of enabling downstream industries — power generation, manufacturing, fertiliser, and petrochemicals — that depend on reliable gas transmission to function.

For the Norwegian service sector, the combination of a \$22 billion investment requirement, a defined production ramp-up timeline, and an explicit call for technology-driven inspection and monitoring represents a structured entry opportunity. The emphasis on AI surveillance, digital leak detection, and directional drilling for river crossings aligns closely with capabilities Norwegian companies have deployed in demanding environments globally. With Nigeria's gas ambitions carrying a hard deadline of 2030, the procurement cycle for engineering, monitoring, and maintenance contracts is likely to accelerate in the near term.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

The \$22 billion investment requirement and Nigeria's 2027–2030 production ramp-up create a defined procurement window for Norwegian pipeline engineering, inspection, and integrity management firms. The explicit call for AI-based surveillance, digital leak detection, and risk-based maintenance systems maps directly onto technologies Norwegian service companies are well positioned to supply or license. Partners should monitor tendering activity from Nigerian midstream operators and consider engaging Amelin Projects Ltd. and Westend Diamond Energy Ltd. as potential local collaboration partners.



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- **Pipeline:** The 2,500-km network overhaul and \$22 billion investment target create direct bidding opportunities for pipeline engineering, construction, and integrity management firms with experience in challenging terrain and river-crossing applications.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Horizontal directional drilling techniques demonstrated on the OB3 river crossing signal appetite for technically advanced installation methods that Norwegian subsea construction specialists can offer.
- **Service:** The discovery of over 3,000 defects in a single 55-km inspection and the call for AI surveillance and digital leak detection represent a near-term commercial opening for Norwegian inspection, integrity, and monitoring service providers.
- **LNG:** Nigeria's target of scaling commercialised gas output from 4.7 to 12 billion cubic feet per day by 2030 will require expanded gas processing and export infrastructure, creating upstream and midstream opportunities relevant to LNG-focused service firms.
- **Drilling:** Production growth from current reserves to meet the 10–12 Bcf/d targets will require sustained drilling activity, and Norwegian well services companies should track operator capex plans aligned with the federal production timetable.

[Original source: Pipeline Technology Journal →](#)

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